

REMARKS

Prior to entry of this Amendment, claims 1-24 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 2, 4, 5, 7-14, and 18 are amended; and claim 1 is cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. No new matter is added. Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 12-14, 19, and 20, are the independent claims.

Claims 2-24 are presented to the Examiner for further or initial prosecution on the merits. Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the preceding amendments and following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgement of Applicants' claim for foreign priority and receipt of a certified copy of the priority document.

Applicants also appreciate the Examiner's indication that the Information Disclosure Statements filed on April 27, 2005, and August 5, 2005, have been considered.

Applicants note that the present action does not indicate that the drawings have been accepted by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner's next communication include an indication as to the acceptability of the filed drawings or as to any perceived deficiencies so that the Applicants may have a full and fair opportunity to submit appropriate amendments and/or corrections to the drawings.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 19-24 are allowed, and that claims 2-8 and 12-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have amended claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 12, 13, and 14, in independent form including the features of the base claim of claim 1. Accordingly, as all pending claims are either allowed or indicated as allowable, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner place the instant application in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 9, 10, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,902,291 (hereinafter, "Rizkin").

By the instant amendment, claim 1 has been cancelled and placed in allowable claim 8 in independent form. Accordingly, claim 8 is believed to be in condition for allowance, and a notice to such effect is respectfully requested.

Further, because the remaining claims, viz. claims 9, 10 and 18 depend directly from allowable claim 8, dependent claims 9, 10 and 18 are believed to be similarly allowable as depending from an allowable base claim.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 9, 10, and 18 are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rizkin in view of US Patent Publication No. 2004/0194470 (hereinafter, "Upadhye").

By the instant amendment, claim 1 has been cancelled and placed in allowable claim 8 in independent form. Accordingly, claim 8 is believed to be in condition for allowance, and a notice to such effect is respectfully requested.

Further, because the remaining claim 11 depends directly from allowable claim 8, claim 11 is believed to be similarly allowable as depending from an allowable base claim.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claim 11 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks and amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending objections and rejections has been addressed and overcome, placing the present application in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

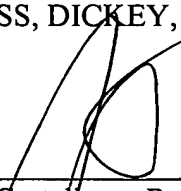
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John A. Castellano, at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By



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